

**JUNE 2023**

## ACTUALITÉS

### Bamako:

The workshop to report on the activities of the project: "Strengthening the bonds of trust between the defence and security forces and the civilian population" by the Malian Institute for Research Action for Peace (IMRAP) with funding from the Swiss Cooperation, was held on 21 June 2023 in the conference room of the women's house located in Sabalibougou, in front of the Hotel Olympe in Bamako.

One of the objectives of this project is the logical continuation of the civil-military dialogue that IMRAP has been conducting with the support of the Peace and Human Rights Division (DPDH) of the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Confederation since October 2019, this time with a limitation of the area of intervention for a better impact.

For 17 months, the research focused on the perceptions and expectations of the SDF towards the civilian population and vice versa in the Mopti circle. It also concerned the proposals for possible solutions and recommendations made by the actors of the process.

Thus, the results obtained are presented to military, security and civilian executives, members of the steering committee, representatives of civil societies in the Mopti circle, taking into account recommendations addressed to members of the defense and security forces and civilians.

The ceremony was presided over by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Security and Civil Protection, Mr. Oumar SOGOBA: In his opening speech, the Secretary General said that we could not talk about peace and social cohesion without perfect collaboration between security professionals and the civilian population. It is in this spirit, he continues, that the Malian authorities, in the search for stability for the country, have made bringing the FOS population closer together an essential link in the policy of securing the territory.

Read more

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/19i1rDVqrpYmd24H2iURclyHIDJLFUwgE/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/19i1rDVqrpYmd24H2iURclyHIDJLFUwgE/view?usp=drive_link)

### Words from the Chairman of the Board of Directors :

*In January 2015, IMRAP published its report "Mali's Self-Portrait: Obstacles to Peace" by prioritizing the concerns of Malians into four (4) themes, namely: (1) The erosion of societal values, (2) The limitation of access to employment for young people, (3) Failure in the management of public affairs and (4) Chronic insecurity.*



*Since then, IMRAP has been working on building trust between the defence and security forces and the civilian population through several projects through the establishment of inclusive and participatory dialogue frameworks.*

*Ladies and gentlemen*

*Whether in Gao, Timbuktu, Mopti or Kayes, faithful to its ideals of peace and renewal of living together, IMRAP works tirelessly to restore the conditions for social cohesion, reconciliation and security through the improvement and strengthening of trust between the SDF and the civilian population.*

*To meet this challenge, IMRAP will work through its various teams to contribute to the efforts undertaken by the highest authorities to find solutions for a lasting peace.*

*Thus, from January 2022 to May 2023, IMRAP began a process of consultations through focus groups, individual interviews, dialogue frameworks, workshops and round tables, in order to collect the aspirations of all layers of society, including youth, women and SDF, in the Mopti circle.*

*Ladies and gentlemen*



The objective of this workshop is to present the results of the implementation of the project entitled: "Strengthening the bonds of trust between the Defence and Security Forces and the civilian population" and to create a debate around the difficulties, expectations, solutions and recommendations on the collaboration between the SDF and the civilian population.

It is also a space for dialogue where everyone has a say so that the civil-military dialogue process is "an element of transformation and a hope for change in the long term". I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to each of the Authorities (civil and military) on behalf of IMRAP for their daily support in achieving results.

Ladies and gentlemen

Through this workshop, which follows the round table presenting the preliminary results that local actors had the opportunity to validate by providing feedback,

contributions, observations and comments, IMRAP thus meets one of its own requirements and methods. The results presented here will, I am sure, enable the national authorities to take into account the aspirations of the actors at the grassroots level, whether military or civilian.

Counting on your active participation in the discussions, I trust that these provisional results submitted for your assessment will be the subject of a quality contribution.

In closing, I would like to express my deep gratitude to our partner, the Peace and Human Rights Division of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Confederation for its financial support.

I would be remiss if I did not make a special mention of the IMRAP teams, "Soldiers of Peace", who go through danger on a daily basis in action research for peace in Mali.

Ladies and gentlemen

It is on these notes that I wish you excellent moments of exchange!

Thank you.

57 -Tel. Office: (223) 20.22.18.48

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